Robur Britannorum

Robur Britannorum

Two Discourses,

Lately

Revievvd and enrich'd by the Author.

One,

The Pre-eminence and Pedegree of PARLEMENT.

Whereunto is added

A Vindication of some passages reflecting upon the Author, in a Book call'd the *Popish Royall Favorit*, penn'd and published by Master *Prynne*; wherein he styles him,

No Friend to Parlements, and a Malignant, pag. 42.

With a clearing of some Occurrences in *Spayne* at His MAJESTIES being there, cited by the said Master *Prynne* out of the *Vocall Forrest*, whereunto the collaterall Landskippe refers.

The second,

ENGLANDS TEARES.

By *Iames Howell* Esqr one of the Clerks of His *Majesties* most Honble *Privy-Councell*.

Printed at *London* according to Order, by *Richard Heron*. 1644.

The Printer to the Reader.

READer, Theſe two Diſcourſes, one, the *Pre-eminence and pedegree of Parlement*, the other *Englands Teares*, I preſent again to your view: They went abroad ſingly before, but I have conjoyn'd them now in one peece, for your better accommodation. They have bin ſurreptitiouſly printed in Oxford, and els where, but miſtaken in divers places; They come forth now, not only corrected, but enrich'd by the Authour himſelfe. When they were expos'd firſt to the world, they found extraordinary good acceptance, and have been very much ſought for ſince, as well for the richneſſe of the ſtile and matter, as for the gallant worth of the Authour, which is ſo well known at home and abroad.

R. H.

To

To my worthily honored Friend, Sir *W. S.* Knight.

SIR,

I *Have many thanks to give you for the Book you pleased to send me, called the* Popish Royall Favorite; *and according to your advice (which I value in a high degree) I put pen to paper, and something you may see I have done (though in a poore pamphleting way) to cleare my selfe of those aspersions that are cast upon me therein. But truly Sir, I was never so unfit for such a task; all my Papers, Manuscripts, and Notes, having been long since seized upon and kept from me. Adde hereunto, that besides this long pressure and languishment of twenty three Moneths close restraint (the sense wherof, I find hath much stupified my spirits) it pleased God to visit me lately with a dangerous fit of sicknes, a high burning feaver, with the new disease, whereof my* Body *as well as my* Mind *is yet somewhat crazie: so that (take all afflictions together) I may truly say, I have passed the* Ordeal, *the fiery Tryall. But it hath pleased God to reprieve me to see better dayes I hope; for out of this fatall black* Cloud, *which now oresets this poore* Island, *I hope there will breake a glorious Sun-shine of peace and firme happinesse: To effect which, had I a* Jury, *a* grand-Jury *of lives, I would sacrifice them all, and triumph in the oblation.*

So I most affectionately kisse your hands, and rest

Your faithfull (though afflicted) Servant,

From the Prison of the Fleet. *James Howell.*

The Pre-eminence OF PARLEMENT.

Sectio Prima.

I Am a Free-born *Subject* of the Realm of *England*; whereby I claim as my native Inheritance, an undoubted right, propriety, and portion in the Laws of the Land; And this distinguisheth me from a *Slave*. I claim also an interest and common right in the High Nationall Court of *Parlement*, and in the power, the priviledges and jurisdiction thereof; which I put in equall ballance with the *Laws*, in regard it is the *fountain whence they spring*; and this I hold also to be a principall part of my Birth-right, which great Councell I honor, respect, value, and love in as high a degree as can be; as being the *Bulwark of our liberties, the main boundary and banke which keeps us from slavery, from the inundations of tyrannicall Rule, and unbounded Will-government*. And I hold my self obliged in a tye of indispensable obedience, to conform and submit my self to whatsoever shall be transacted, concluded, and constituted by its authority in Church or State; whether it be by making, enlarging, altering, diminishing, disanulling, repealing, or reviving of any Law, Statute, Act, or Ordinance whatsoever, either touching matters Ecclesiasticall, civill, common, capitall, criminall, martiall, maritime, municipall, or any other; of all which, the transcendent and uncontrollable jurisdiction of that Court is capable to take cognizance.

Amongst the three things which the *Athenian* Captain thank'd the gods for, one was, That he was born a *Grecian*, and not a *Barbarian*. For such was the vanity of the *Grecks*, and after them, of the *Romans*, in the flourish of their Monarchy, to arrogate all civility to themselves, and to terme all the world

besi' s

beſides *Barbarians*: SoI may ſay to have cauſe to rejoyce, that I was born a vaſſall to the Crown of *England*; that I was born under ſo well moulded and tempered a Government, which endows the ſubject with ſuch Liberties and infranchiſements that bear up his naturall courage, and keep him ſtill in heart; ſuch Liberties that fence and ſecure him eternally from the gripes and tallons of *Tyranny*: And allthis may be imputed to the Authority and wiſedome of this High Court of *Parlement*, wherein there is ſuch a rare co-ordination of power (though the Soveraignty remain ſtill entire, and untranſferrable in the perſon of the Prince) there is ſuch a wholſome mixture 'twixt *Monarchy*, *Optimacy*, and *Democracy*; 'twixt Prince, Peers, and Communalty, during the time of conſultation, that of ſo many diſtinct parts, by a rare co-operation and unanimity, they make but one *Body Politick*, (like that ſheafe of arrows in the Emblem) one entire concentricall peece, and the reſults of their deliberations, but as ſo many harmonious diapaſons ariſing from different ſtrings. And what greater immunity and happineſſe can there be to a People, than to be liable to no Laws but what they make themſelves? to be ſubject to no contribution, aſſeſſement, or any pecuniary levy whatſoever, but what they Vote, and voluntarily yeeld unto themſelves? For in this compacted *Politick Body*, there be all degrees of people repreſented; both the Mechanick, Tradeſman, Merchant, and Yeoman, have their incluſive Vote, as well as the Gentry, in the perſons of their Truſtees, their Knights and Burgeſſes, in paſſing of all things.

Nor is this Soveraign Surintendent Councell an Epitome of this Kingdom only, but it may be ſaid to have a repreſentation of the whole Univerſe; as I heard a fluent well-worded *Knight* deliver the laſt *Parliament*, who compared the beautifull compoſure of that High Court, to the great work of God, the World it ſelf: The King is as the Sun, the Nobles the fixed Stars, the Itinerant Judges and other Officers (that go upon Meſſages 'twixt both Houſes) to the Planets; the Clergy, to the Element of fire; the Commons, to the ſolid *Body* of Earth, and the reſt of the Elements. And to purſue this compariſon a little farther; as the heavenly Bodies, when three of them meet in *Conjunction*, do uſe to produce ſome admirable effects in the Elementary World: So when theſe *three States* convene and aſſemble in one ſolemne great *Iunta*, ſome notable and extraordinary things are brought forth, tending to the welfare of the whole Kingdom, our *Micracoſme*.

HE that is never ſo little verſed in the Annales of this *Iſle*, will find that it hath bin her fate to be four times *conquered*. I exclude the *Scot*; for the ſcituation of his Country, and the quality of the Clime hath been ſuch an advantage and ſecurity to him, that neither the *Roman Eagles* would fly thither, for fear of freezing their wings; nor any other Nation attempt the work.

Theſe

These so many Conquests must needs bring with them many tumblings and tossings, many disturbances and changes in Government; yet I have observed, that notwithstanding these tumblings, it retained still the forme of a *Monarchy*, and something there was always that had an Analogy with the great Assembly the *Parlement*.

The first Conquest I finde was made by *Claudius Cæsar*; at which time (as some well observe) the *Roman Ensignes*, and the *Standard of Christ* came in together. It is well known what Laws the *Roman* had; He had his *Comitia*, which bore a resemblance with our Convention in *Parlement*; the place of their meeting was called *Prætorium*, and the Laws which they enacted, *Plebescita*.

The *Saxon* Conquest succeeded next, which were the *English*, there being no name in *Welsh* or *Irish* for an English man, but *Saxon*, to this day. They governed by *Parlement*, though it were under other names; as *Michel Sinoth*, *Michel Gemote*, and *Witenage Mote*.

There are Records above a thousand years old, of these *Parlements*, in the Raigns of King *Ina*, *Offa*, *Ethelbert*, and the rest of the seven Kings during the *Heptarchy*. The *British* Kings also, who retaind a great while some part of the Isle unconquered, governed and made Laws by a kind of Parlementary way; witnes the famous Laws of Prince *Howell*, called *Howell Dha*, (the good Prince *Howell*) whereof there are yet extant some Welsh Records. *Parlements* were also used after the *Heptarchy* by King *Kenulphus*, *Alphred*, and others; witnesse that renowned *Parlement* held at *Grately* by King *Athelstan*.

The third Conquest was by the *Danes*, and they govern'd also by such generall Assemblies, (as they do to this day) witnesse that great and so much celebrated Parlement held by that mighty Monarch *Canutus*, who was King of *England*, *Denmark*, *Norway*, and other Regions 150 years before the compiling of *Magna Charta*; and this the learned in the Laws do hold to be one of the specialst, and most authentick peeces of antiquity we have extant. *Edward* the Confessor made all his Laws thus, (and he was a great *Legis-lator*,) which the *Norman* Conquerour (who liking none of his sons, made God Almighty his heir, bequeathing unto him this Island for a legacy) did ratifie and establish, and digested them into one entire methodicall Systeme, which being violated by *Rufus*, (who came to such a disastrous end as to be shot to death in lieu of a *Buck* for his sacriledges) were restor'd by *Henry* the first, and so they continued in force till King *John*; whose Raign is renowned for first confirming *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our Liberties ever since: which may be compar'd to divers *outlandish graffs set upon one English stock*; *or to a posie of sundry fragrant flowers*; for the choicest of the *British*, the *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Danish*, and *Norman* Laws, being cull'd and pick'd out, and gathered as it were into one bundle, out of them the foresaid *grand Charter* was extracted: And the establishment of this great Charter was the work of a *Parlement*.

Nor are the Lawes of *this Iſland* only, and the freedome of the Subject conſerved by *Parlement*, but all the beſt policed Countries of *Europe* have the like. The Germanes have their *Diets*, the Danes and Swedes their *Rijcks Dachs*; the Spaniard calls his Parlement, *las Cortes* and the French have, (or ſhould have at leaſt) their *Aſſembly of three States*, though it be growne now in a manner obſolete, becauſe the Authority thereof was (by accident) devolv'd to the *King*. And very remarkable it is, how this happened; for when the *Engliſh* had taken ſuch large footing in moſt parts of *France*, having advanced as far as *Orleans*, and driven their then King *Charles* the ſeventh, to *Bourges* in *Berry*; the *Aſſembly of the three States* in theſe preſſures, being not able to meet after the uſuall manner in full *Parlement*, becauſe the Countrey was unpaſſable, the Enemy having made ſuch firme invaſions up and down through the very bowels of the Kingdome; that power which formerly was inhærent in the *Parlementary Aſſembly*, of making Lawes, of aſſeſſing the Subject with Taxes, ſubſidiary levies, and other impoſitions, was tranſmitted to the *King* during the war; which continuing many years, that intruſted power by length of time grew as it were habituall in him, and could never after be re-aſſumed and taken from him; ſo that ever ſince, his *Edicts* countervaile *Acts* of *Parlement*. And that which made the buſineſſe more feaſable for the *King*, was, that the burthen fell moſt upon the Communalty (the Clergy and Nobility not feeling the weight of it) who were willing to ſee the *Peaſan* pull'd downe a little, becauſe not many years before, in that notable Rebellion, call'd *la laquerie de Beauvoiſin*, which was ſuppreſſed by *Charles the wiſe*, the Common people put themſelves boldly in Arms againſt the Nobility and Gentry, to leſſen their power. Adde hereunto as an advantage to the worke, that the next ſucceeding King *Lewis the eleventh*, was a cloſe cunning Prince, and could well tell how to play his game, and draw water to his own mill; For amongſt all the reſt, he was ſaid to be the firſt that put the Kings of France, *Hors de page*, out of their minority, or from being *Pages* any more, though thereby he brought the poore *peaſans* to be worſe than *Lacquays*.

With the fall, or at leaſt the diſcontinuance of that uſuall *Parlementary Aſſembly* of the *three States*, the liberty of the *French* Nation utterly fell; the poore *Roturier* and Vineyard-man, with the reſt of the Yeomanary, being reduced ever ſince to ſuch an abject *aſinin* condition, that *they ſerve but as ſponges for the King to ſqueeze when he liſt*. Nevertheleſſe, as that *King* hath an advantage hereby one way, to *monarchize* more abſolutely, and never to want money, but to *ballaſt his purſe* when he will: ſo there is another mighty inconvenience ariſeth to him and his whole Kingdome another way; for this illegall peeling of the poore *Peaſan* hath ſo dejected him, and cowed his native courage ſo much by the ſenſe of poverty (*which brings along with it a narrowneſſe of ſoule*) that he is

little

little usefull for the warre: which put's the *French* King to make other Nations mercenary to him, to fill up his *Infantery*: Insomuch, that the kingdome of *France* may be not unfitly compared to a body that hath all it's blood drawn up in to the arms, breast and back, and scarce any left from the girdle downwards, to cherish and bear up the lower parts, and keep them from starving.

All this seriously considered, there cannot be a more proper and pregnant example than this of our *next Neighbours*, to prove how infinitely necessary the *Parlement* is, to assert, to prop up, and preserve the publike liberty, and nationall rights of a people, with the incolumity and well-fare of a Countrey.

Nor doth the *Subject* only reap benefit thus by *Parlement*, but the *Prince*, (if it be well consider'd) hath equall advantage thereby; It rendreth him a King of *free* and *able* men, which is far more glorious than to be a King of *Slaves*, *Beggars*, and *Bankrupts*; Men that by their freedome, and competency of wealth, are kept still in heart to do him service against any forraine force. And it is a true maxime in all States, that 'tis lesse danger and dishonour for the Prince to be poore, than his people: rich Subjects can make their King rich when they please; if he gain their hearts, he will quickly get their purses. *Parlement* encreaseth love and good intelligence twixt him and his people; It acquaints him with the reality of things, and with the true state and diseases of his kingdom; It brings him to the knowledge of his better sort of Subjects, and of their abilities, which he may employ accordingly upon all occasions; It provides for his Royall Issue, payes his debts, fines means to fill his Coffers: and it is no ill observation, That Parlement-monyes (the great Aid) have prospered best with the Kings of England; It exceedingly raiseth his repute abroad, and enableth him to keep his *foes in feare*, *his Subjects in awe*, *his Neighbours and Confederates in security*, the three main things which go to aggrandize a Prince, and render him glorious. In summe, it is the *Parlement* that supports, and bears up the honour of his Crown, and settles his Throne in safety, which is the chiefe end of all their consultations: For whosoever is entrusted to be a Member of this High Court, carrieth with him a double capacity; he sits there as a *Patriot*, and as a *Subject*: as he is the one, the *Country* is his object, his duty being to vindicate the publike liberty, to make wholsome Lawes, to put his hand to the pump, and stop the leaks of the great vessell of the State, to pry into, and punish corruption and oppression, to improve and advance trade, to have the grievances of the place he serves for redressed, and cast about how to find something that may tend to the advantage of it.

But he must not forget that he sits there also as a *Subject*, and according to that capacity, he must apply himselfe to do his *Soveraigns* busineſſe, to provide not only for his *publike*, but his *personall* wants; to beare up the lustre and glory of his *Court*; to consider what occasions of extraordinary expences he may have, by encreaſe of Royall Issue, or maintenance of any of them abroad; to enable him to vindicate any affront or indignity that might be offered to his Person, Crown, or Dignity, by any *forraine* State or Kingdome; to consult what may enlarge his *honour*, *contentment*, and *pleasure*. And as the French *Tacitus (Comines)* hath it, the Engliſh Nation was used to be more forward and zealous in this particular than any other; according to that ancient eloquent speech of a great *Lawyer*, *Domus Regis vigilia defendit omnium, otium illius labor omnium, delicia illius industria omnium, vacatio illius occupatio omnium, salus illius periculum omnium, honor illius objectum omnium* Every one should stand Centinell to defend the Kings houses, his *safety* should be the *danger* of all, his *pleasures* the *industry* of all, his *ease* should be the *labour* of all, his *honour* the *object* of all.

Out of these premisses this concluſion may be easily deduced, That, *the principall fountaine whence the King derives his happineſſe and safety, is his Parlement*; It is that great Conduit-pipe which conveighes unto him his peoples bounty and gratitude; the trueſt Looking-glaſſe wherein he discernes their loves; now *the Subjects love hath been alwayes accounted the prime Cittadell of a Prince.* In his *Parlement* he appears as the Sun in the Meridian, in the altitude of his glory, *in his higheſt State Royall*, as the Law tels us.

Therefore whoſoever is averſe or disaffected to this Soveraigne Law-making Court, cannot have his heart well planted within him: he can be neither good *Subject*, nor good *Patriot*; and therefore unworthy to breathe Engliſh ayre, or have any benefit, advantage, or protection from the Lawes.

Sectio

Sectio Secunda.

BY that which hath been ſpoken, *which is the language of my heart*, I hope no indifferent judicious Reader will doubt of the cordiall affection, of the high reſpects and due reverence I beare to *Parlement*, as being the wholſomeſt conſtitution, (and done by the higheſt and happieſt reach of policy) that ever was eſtabliſhed in this *Iſland*; to perpetuate the happineſſe thereof, Therefore I muſt tell that *Gentleman*, who was Author of a Booke entituled *the Popiſh Royall Favorite*, (lately printed and expoſed to the world) that he offers me very hard meaſure; nay, he doth me apparant wrong, to terme me therein, *No friend to Parlement, and a Malignant*; A character, which as I *deſerve* it not, ſo I *diſdain* it.

For the firſt part of his charge, I lwoud have him know, that I am as much a *friend and as reall an affectionate humble ſervant and Votary* to the *Parlement* as poſſibly he can be, and will live and dye with theſe affections about me: And I could wiſh, that he were Secretary of my thoughts a while, or if I may take the boldneſſe to apply that compariſon his late Majeſty uſed in a famous ſpeech to one of his *Parlements*, I could wiſh there were a Chryſtall window in my breaſt, through which the world might eſpye the inward motions and palpitations of my heart, then would he be certified of the ſincerity of this proteſtation.

For the ſecond part of his Charge, to be a *Malignant*, I muſt confeſſe to have ſome *Malignity* that lurks within me much againſt my will; but it is no *malignity* of *minde*, it is amongſt the *humours*, not in my *intellectuals*. And I beleeve, there is no naturall man, let him have his *humours* never ſo well ballanced, but hath ſome of this *Malignity* raigning within him; For as long as we are compoſed of the foure *Elements*, whence theſe *humors* are derived, and with whom they ſymbolize in qualities; which *Elements* the Philoſophers hold to be in a reſtleſſe contention amongſt themſelves (and the Stoicke thought that the world ſubſiſted by this innated mutuall ſtrife) as long I ſay, as the foure *humors*, in imitation of their principles (the *Elements*) are in perpetuall reluctancy and combate for prædominancy, there muſt be ſome *malignity* lodg'd within us, as aduſted choler, and the like; whereof I had late experience, in a dangerous fit of ſickneſſe it pleaſed God to lay upon me, which the Phyſitians told me proceeded from the *malignant* hypocondriacall effects of *melancholy*; having been ſo long in this *Saturnine* black condition of cloſe impriſonment, and buried alive between the

the wals of this fatall *Fleet*. These kinds of *malignities*, I confesse are very rife in me, and they are not only incident, but connaturall to every man according to his complexion: And were it not for this incessant strugling and enmity amongst the *humors* for mastery, which produceth such *malignant* effects in us, our soules would be loth ever to depart from our bodies, or to abandon this mansion of clay.

Now what *malignity* my *Accuser* means, I know not; if he means *malignity* of *spirit*, as some antipathy or ill impression upon the minde, arising from disaffection, hatred, or rancor, with a desire of some destructive revenge, he is mightily deceiv'd in me: I *maligne* or hate no Creature that ever God made, but the *Devill*, who is the Author of all *malignity*; and therefore is most commonly called in French *le Malin Esprit* the *malignant spirit*. Every night before I go to bed, I have the grace, I thanke God for it, to forgive all the world, and not to harbour, or let roost in my bosome the least *malignant* thought; yet none can deny, but the publike aspersions which this my *Accuser* casts upon me, were enough to make me a *malignant* towards him; yet it could never have the power to do it: For I have prevail'd with my selfe to forgive him this his wrong censure of me, issuing rather from his *not knowledge* of me, than from *malice*, for we never mingled speech or saw one another in our lives to my remembrance: which makes me wonder the more, that a Professor of the *Law*, as he is, should ronounce such a positive sentence against me so slightly. But me thinks I over-hear him say, that the precedent discourse of *Parlement* is involv'd in generals; and the Topique Axiome tels us, that *Dolus versatur in universalibus* there is double dealing in universals: His meaning is, that I am no friend to this present *Parlement* (though he speaks in the plurall number *Parlements*) and consequently, he concludes me a *Malignant*; Therein, I must tell him also, that I am traduc'd, and I am confident it will be never prov'd against me, from any *actions*, *words*, or *letters* (though diuers of mine have bin intercepted) or any other misdemeanor, though some things are farher'd upon me which never drop'd from my quill. Alas, how unworthy and uncapable am I to censure the proceedings of that great *Senate*, that high *Synedrion*, wherein the wisedome of the whole State is epitomized? It were a presumption in me, of the highest nature that could be: It is enough for me to pray for the prosperous successe of their consultations: And as I hold it my *duty*, so I have good *reason* so to do, in regard I am to have my share in the happinesse; And could the utmost of my poore endeavours, by any ministeriall humble office (and sometimes the meanest *Boat-swain* may help to preserve the Ship from sinking) be so happy, as to contribute

any

any thing to advance that great worke (which I am in despaire to do, while I am thus under *hatches* in this *Fleet*,) I would esteem it the greatest honor that possibly could befall me, as I hold it now to be my greatest disaster, to have fallen so heavily under an affliction of this nature, and to be made a sacrifice to *publike fame*, than which there is no other proofe, nor *that* yet urg'd against me, or any thing else produc'd after so long, so long captivity, which hath brought me to such a low ebbe, and put me so far behind in the course of my poore fortunes, and indeed more than halfe undone me. For although my whole life (since I was left to my selfe to *swim*, as they say, *without bladders*) has bin nothing else but a continued succession of crosses, and that there are but few red letters found (God wot) in the Almanacke of my Age, (for which I account not my selfe a whit the lesse *happy*;) yet this crosse has carried with it a greater weight, it hath bin of a larger extent, longer continuance, and lighted heavier upon me than any other; and as I have *present patience* to beare it, so I hope for *subsequent grace* to make use of it accordingly, that my old Motto may be still confirmed, παθήματα, μαθήματα.

HE produceth my attestation for some passages in *Spaine*, at his Majesties being there, and he quotes me right, which obligeth me to him; and I hope all his quotations, wherein he is so extraordinarily copious and elaborate in all his workes, are so; yet I must tell him, that those interchangeable letters which passed between His Majesty and the *Pope*, which were originally couch'd in *Latine*, the language wherein all Nations treate with *Rome*, and the *Empire* with all the Princes thereof, those letters I say, are adulterated in many places, which I impute not to him, but to the *French Chronicler*, from whom he tooke them in trust. The truth of that businesse is this: The world knowes there was a tedious treaty of an Alliance 'twixt the Infanta *Dona Maria* (who now is *Empresse*) and His Majesty, which in regard of the slow affected pace of the *Spaniard*, lasted above ten years, as that in *Henry* the sevenths time, 'twixt Prince *Arthur*, and (afterwards) Queen *Katherine*, was spun out above *seven*: To quicken, or rather to *consummate* the work, his Majesty made that adventurous journey through the whole Continent of *France*, into *Spaine*; which voyage, though there was a great deale of gallantry in it (whereof all posterity will ring, untill it turne at last to a *Romance*) yet it prov'd the bane of the businesse, which 'tis not the errand of so poore a Pamphlet as this to unfold. His Majesty being there arriv'd, the ignorant common people cried out, the *Prince* of *Wales* came thither to make himselfe a *Christian*. The *Pope* writ to the *Inquisitor Generall*, and others, to use all industry they could to reduce him to the *Ro-*

man.

mane Religion; And one of *Olivares* first complements to him, was, *That he doubted not but that His Highneſſe came thither to change His Religion*: whereunto he made a ſhort anſwer, *That He came not thither for a Religion, but for a Wife*. There were extraordinary proceſſions made, and other artifices us'd by protraction of things, to make him ſtay there of purpoſe till the Spring following, to worke upon him the better: And the *Infanta* her ſelfe deſir'd him (which was eſteem'd the greateſt favour he received from her all the while) to viſit the *Nunne of Carion*; hoping that the ſayd Nunne, who was ſo much cried up for miracles, might have wrought one upon him; but her art failed her, nor was His Highneſſe ſo weake a ſubject to work upon, according to His late Majeſties ſpeech to Doctor *Mawe* and *Wren*, who when they came to kiſſe his hands, before they went to *Spaine* to attend the Prince their Maſter, *He wiſhed them to have a care of* Buckingham, *as touching his Sonne* Charles, *he apprehended no feare at all of him; for he knew him to be ſo well grounded a* Proteſtant, *that nothing could ſhake him in his Religion*. The Arabian proverbe is, That the Sun never ſoiles in his paſſage, though his beames reverberate never ſo ſtrongly, and dwell never ſo long upon the myry lake of Mæotis, the black turf'd moores of *Holland*, the aguiſh wooſe of *Kent* and *Eſſex*, or any other place, be it never ſo dirty; Though *Spaine* be a hot Countrey, yet one may paſſe and repaſſe through the very Center of it, and never be Sun-burnt, if he carry with him a *Bongrace*, and ſuch a one His Majeſty had.

Well, after his Majeſties arrivall to *Madrid*, the treaty of Marriage went on ſtill, (though he told them at his firſt comming, that he came not thither like an *Embaſſador*, to treat of Marriage, but as a *Prince*, to fetch home a Wife;) and in regard they were of different Religions, it could not be done without a diſpenſation from the *Pope*, & the *Pope* would grant none, unleſſe ſome Capitulations were ſtipulated in favour of the Romiſh Catholikes in *England*, (the ſame in ſubſtance were agreed on with *France*.) Well, when the diſpenſation came, which was negotiated ſolely by the King of Spains Miniſters; becauſe His Majeſty would have as little to do as might be with *Rome*, Pope *Gregory* the fifteenth, who died a little after, ſent His Majeſty a Letter, which was delivered by the *Nuncio*, whereof an anſwer was ſent a while after: Which Letters were imprinted and expoſed to the view of the world; becauſe His Majeſty would not have people whiſper, that the buſineſſe was carried in a clandeſtine manner. And truly beſides this, I do not know of any Letter, or Meſſage, or Complement, that ever paſs'd 'twixt His Majeſty and the *Pope*, afore or after; ſome addreſſes peradventure might be made to the Cardinalls, to whom the drawing of

those

thoſe matrimoniall diſpatches was referred, to quicken the work, but this was only by way of civill negotiation.

Now touching that *reſponſory* Letter from His Majeſty, it was no other than a Complement in the ſevereſt interpretation; and ſuch formalities paſſe 'twixt the Crown of *England*, and the great *Turke*, and divers Heathen Princes. The *Pope* writ firſt, and no man can deny, but by all morall rules, and in common humane civility His Majeſty was bound to anſwer it, ſpecially conſidering how punctuall they are in thoſe Countries to correſpond in this kind, how exact they are in repayring viſits, and the performance of ſuch Ceremonies; And had this compliance been omitted, it might have made very ill impreſſions, as the poſture of things ſtood then; for it had prejudiced the great work in hand, I mean, the *Match*, which was then in the heat and height of agitation: His Majeſties perſon was there engag'd, and ſo it was no time to give the leaſt offence. They that are never ſo little vers'd in buſineſſe abroad, do know that there muſt be addreſſes, compliances, and formalities of this nature (according to the Italian Proverbe, *That one muſt ſometimes light a candle to the Devill*) us'd in the carriage of matters of State, as this great buſineſſe was, whereon the eyes of all Chriſtendome were ſo greedily fix'd; A buſineſſe which was like to bring with it ſuch an univerſall good, as the reſtitution of the *Palatinate*, the quenching of thoſe hideous fires in *Germany*, and the eſtabliſhing of a peace through all the Chriſtian World.

I hope none will take offence, that in this particular which comes within the compaſſe of my knowledge, being upon the Stage when this Scene was aged, I do this right to the *King* my Maſter, in diſplaying the *Truth*, and putting her forth in her own colours, a rare thing in theſe dayes.

TOuching the *Vocall Forreſt*, an Allegoricall Diſcourſe, that goes abroad under my name, a good while before the beginning of this *Parlement*, which this *Gentleman* cites (and that very faithfully.) I underſtand there be ſome that mutter at certain paſſages therein, by putting ill gloſſes upon the Text, and taking with the *left* hand, what I offer with the *right*: (Nor is it a wonder for trees which lys open, and ſtand expoſed to all weathers to be nipt) But I deſire this favour, which in *common* juſtice, I am ſure in the Court of *Chancery* cannot be denyed me, it being the priviledge of every Author, and a received maxime through the World, *Cujus eſt condere, ejus eſt interpretari*; I ſay, I crave this favour, to have leave to expound my own Text, and I doubt not then but to rectifie any one in his opinion of me, and that in lieu of the *Plums which I give him from thoſe Trees, he will not throw the ſtones at me.*

Moreover, I desire those that are over criticall Censurers of that peece, to know, that as in Divinity it is a rule, *Scriptura parabolica non est argumentativa*; so it is in all other kind of knowledge. *Parables* (whereof that Discourse is composed) *though pressed never so hard, prove nothing*. There is another *Rule* also, That *Parables* must be gently used, like a Nurses breast; which if you presse too hard, you shall have *blood* in stead of *milke*.

But as the Author of the *Vocall Forrest* thinks he hath done, neither his *Countrey*, nor the *Common-wealth* of *Learning* any prejudice thereby (That *maiden fancy* having received so good entertainment and respect abroad, as to be translated into divers Languages, and to gain the publick approbation of some famous Universities) So he makes this humble protest unto all the World, that though the designe of that Discourse was partly *Satyricall* (which peradventure induc'd the Author to shrowd it of purpose under the shadowes of *trees*, and where should Satyres be but amongst Trees?) yet it never entred into his Imagination to let fall from him the least thing that might give any offence to the High and Honorable Court of *Parlement*, wherof he had the honor to be once a Member, and hopes he may be thought worthy again; And were he guilty of such an offence, or *pique* rather, he thinks he should never forgive himselfe, though he were appointed his own Judge. If there occurre any passage therein that may admit a hard construction, let the Reader observe, That the Author doth not positively assert, or passe a judgement on any thing in that Discourse, which consists principally of concise, cursory narrations, of the choisest Occurrences and Criticismes of State, according as the pulse of time did beat then: And matters of State, as all other sublunary things, are subject to alterations, contigencies and change, which makes the opinions and minds of men vary accordingly; not one amongst twenty is the same man to day as he was four years ago, in point of judgement, which turns and alters according to the circumstance and succesle of things: And it is a true saying, whereof we find common experience, *posterior dies est prioris Magister* The day following is the former dayes Schoolmaster. Ther's another Aphorisme, *The wisedome of one day is the foolishnesse of another*, and 'twill be so as long as there is a man left in the world.

I will conclude with this modest request to that *Gentleman of the long Robe*; That having unpassionately perus'd what I have written in this small *Discourse*, in penning whereof, my *conscience* guided my *quill* all along as well as my *hand*, he would please to be so charitable and just, as to reverse that harsh sentence upon me, *To be no Friend to Parlements, and a Malignant*.

FINIS.

ENGLANDS TEARES, FOR THE PRESENT WARS,

WHICH FOR THE NATVRE of the Quarell, the quality of Strength, the diversity of Battailes, Skirmiges, Encounters, and Sieges, (happened in so short a compasse of time,) cannot be paralleld by any precedent Age.

Hei mihi, quàm miser è rugit Leo, Lilia *languent,*
Heu, Lyra, *quàm mæstos pulsat Hiberna sonos.*

Printed at *London*, according to Order, by *Richard Heron*, 1644.

To my Imperiall Chamber, The City of *London*.

Renowned City,

IF *any ſhowers of adverſity fall on me, ſome of the drops thereof muſt needs daſh on thy Streets. It is not a ſhower but a furious Storme that powr's upon me now, accompanied with fearfull cracks of thunder and unuſuall fulgurations. The fatall Cloud wherein this ſtorm lay long engendring, though when it began to condenſe firſt, it appeared but as* big as a hand, *yet by degrees it hath ſpread to ſuch a vaſt expanſion, that it hath diffus'd it ſelfe through all my Regions, and obſcur'd that fair face of Heaven, which was uſed to ſhine upon me; If it laſt long, 'tis impoſſible but we both ſhould periſh.* Peace may, but War muſt deſtroy. *I ſee poverty poſting apace, and ready to knock at thy gates; That gaſtly herbenger of Death the* Peſtilence *appears already within and without thy Walls; And me thinks I ſpie meager-fac'd* Famine *a farre off making towards thee; nor can all thy elaborat circumvallations, and trenches, or any art of Enginry, keepe him out of thy Line of Communication if this hold. Therefore my dear* Daughter, *think, Oh think upon ſome timely prevention, 'tis the Counſell, and requeſt of*

Thy moſt afflicted Mother

ENGLAND.

Englands Teares.

O H! that my head did flow with waters; Oh, that my Eyes were limbecks through which might distill drops and essences of bloud! Oh that I could melt away and dissolve all in to teares more brackish than those Seas that surround me! Oh that I could weepe my selfe blind to prevent the seeing of those Mountains of mischiefs that are like to fall down upon me! Oh, that I could rend the Rocks that gird me about, and with my ejaculations tear and diffipate those black dismall clouds which hang over me! Oh, that I could cleave the Ayre with my cries, that they might find passage up to Heaven, and fetch down the *Moon* (that *œatry* planet) to weep and wayle with me, or make old *Saturne* descend from his Spheare, to partake with me in my melancholy; and bring along with him the mournfull *Pleiades*, to make a full consort and sing *lachryme* with me, for that wofull taking, that desperate case, that most deplorable condition I have plung'd my selfe into unawares, by this unnaturall selfe-destroying Warre, by this intricate odd kind of *Enigmaticall* War wherein both Parties are so entangled (like a skeine of ravell'd silk) that they know not how to unwind and untwist themselves, but by violent and destructive wayes, by tearing my entrailes, by exhausting my vitall spirits, by breaking my very heart strings to cure the Malady. Oh, I am deadly sick, and as that famous Chancelor of *France* spoke of the civill Warrs of his Countrey, That *France was sick of an unknown disease*; so if *Hippocrates* himselfe were living, he could not be able to tell *the true* symptomes of mine, though he felt my pulse, and made inspection into my water never so exactly; onely in the generall he may discover a strange kinde of *infection* that hath seised upon the *affections* of my people; But for the disease it selfe it will gravell him to judge of it: nor can there be any prediction made of it, it is so sharp which make some tell me that I cannot grow better, but by growing yet worse; That there is no way to stanch this Flux of Bloud, but by opening some more of the master Veines: that it is not enough for me to have drunke so deep of this cup of affliction, but I must swallow up the dregs and all.

Oh, Passenger stop thy pace, and if there be any sparkles of humane compassion glowing in thy bosome, stay a while and hear my plaints, and I know they will not only strike a resentment, but a horror into thee; for they are of such a natu

th

that they are able to penetrate a breast of brasse, to mollifie a heart hoop'd with Adamant, to wring tears out of a statue of Marble.

I that have bin alway accounted the *Queen of Isles*, the *Darling of nature*, and *Neptune's Minion*; I that have bin stil'd by the Character of *the first Daughter of the Church*, that have converted eight severall Nations; I that made the morning beams of Christianity shine upon *Scotland*, upon *Ireland*, and a good part of *France*; I that did irradiat *Denmarque*, *Swethland* and *Norway* with the light thereof; I that brought the *Saxons*, with other *Germanes high* and *low*, from *Paganisme*, to the knowledge of the Gospell; I that had the first *Christian* King, that ever was, (*Ebelus*) and the first *reformed* King (the eight *Henry*) to raigne over me; *Iout of whose* bowells sprung the first Christian *Emperour* that ever was, *Constantine*; I that had *five severall* Kings, *viz. Iohn* King of France, *David* King of Scotland, *Peter* King of Boheme, and *two Irish* Kings my Captifs in lesse than one year; I under whose banner that great Emperour *Maximilian* tooke it an honor to serve in person, and receive pay from mee and quarter his Arms with mine; I that had the Lyon rampant of *Scotland* lately added to fill up my Scutchen, and had reduc'd *Ireland*, after so many costly intermissive wars, to such a perfect passe of obedience, and settlement of customs & Crown Revenues; I that to the astonishment and envy of the World, preserved my own Dominions free and flourishing, when all my neighbour Countries were a fire before my face; I that did so wonderfully flourish and improve in commerce domestique and forren both by Land and Sea; I that did so abound with Bullion, with buildings, with all sort of bravery that heart could wish; in summe, I that did live in that height of happines, in that affluence of all earthly felicity, that some thought I had yet remaining some ingots of that old *gold* whereof the first age of the world was made: Behold, behold, I am now become the object of *pitty* to some, of *scorne* to others, of *laughter* to all people; my children abroad are driven to disadvow me for fear of being jeerd, they dare not own me for their Mother, neither upon the *Rialto* of *Venice*, the *Berle* of Ausburg, the new Bridge of *Paris*, the Cambios of *Spaine*, or upon the Quoys of *Holland*, for feare of being baffled and hooted at. Me thinkes I see my next neighbour *France*, (through whose bowells my gray-Goose wing flew so oft) making mowes at me, and saying, that whereas *she* was wont to be the chiefe Theater where fortune us'd to play her pranks, she hath now removed her stage hither; *she* laughes at me that I should let the common people the Citty rabble, (and now lately the females) to know their strength so much.

Me thinks I see the *Spanyard* standing at a gaze, and *crossing* himselfe to see mee so *foolish* as to execute the designes of my enemies upon my selfe. The *Italian* admires to see a people argue themselves thus into Arms, and to be so active in their own ruine; the *German* drinks carouses that he hath now a Co-partner in his miseries; The *Swed* joyces in a manner to see me bring in a forren Nation to be my Champion; The *Netherlander* strikes his hand upon his breast, and protests that he wisheth me as well as once the Duke of *Burgundy* did *France*, when he swoare, *He lov'd France so well, that for one King he wish'd she had twenty.*

Me thinks I see the *Turke* nodding with his Turban, and telling me that I should thank Heaven for that distance which is betwixt us; else he would swallow me all up at one morsell; only the *Hollander* my bosome friend seems to resent my hard condition, yet he thinks it no ill favoured sight to see his shops and lombards every where full of my plundered goods, to find my trade cast into his hands, and that he can unparell me in my own native commodities, to see my gold brought over in such heaps, by those that flie from me with all they have for their security; In fine, me thinks I hear all my neighbours about me bargaining for my skin, while thus like an unruly horse, I run headlong to dash out my own brains.

O cursed jealousie, the source of all my sorrowes, the ground *of all my* inexpressible miseries! is it not enough for thee *to creep in* twixt the husband and the wife, twixt the *lemmon and his mate*, twixt parents and children, twixt *kindred and friends*; hast thou not scope enough to sway in *private Families*, in staple societies, and Corporations, in *common* counsells, but thou must get in, twixt King and *Parlement*, twixt the head and the members (twixt the *Members* amongst themselves?) but thou must get in twixt Prince and people, but thou must cast up so deep a trench twixt *the Soveraign* and the Subject. Avant, avant thou hollow-eyed *Snake-haird* monster, hence away into the abisse below, *into the bottomlesse* gulfe, thy proper mansion; sit there in *thy chaire*, and presideo're the counsells of hell amongst the *Cacodæmons*, and never ascend again to turne my high *law-making* Court into a *Councell of Warre*, to turne my best antidote *into poyson*, and throw so many *Scruples* into *that Soveraign physick* which was us'd to *cure me* of all *distempers*.

But when I well consider the constitution of this elementary world, and finde man to be part of it, when I think on those light and changeable ingredients that go to his composition, I conclude, that men will be men while there is a World, and as long as the Moon their next neighbour towards heaven hath an influxive power to make impressions upon their humors, they will be ever greedy and covetous of novelties and mutation; the common people will be still common people, they will sometime or other shew what they are, and vent their instable passions. And when I consider further the distractions, the tossings, turmoylings and tumblings of other Regions round about me, as well as mine own, I conclude also, that Kingdoms and States and Cities and all body politiques are as subject to convulsions, to calentures, and consumptions, aswell as the fraile bodies of men, and must have an evacuation for their corrupt humors, they must be phlebotomiz'd; I have often felt this kind of phlebotomy, I have had also shrewd purges and pills often given me, which did not onely work upon my superfluous humors, but wasted sometimes my very vitall spirits; yet I had Electuaries and *Cordialls* given me afterwards, which fetched me up again; insomuch that this present tragedy is but *vetus fabula novi Histriones* it is but an old play represented by new Actors, I have often had the like. Therefore let no man wonder at these traverses and humor of change in me. I remember there was as much wondring at the demolishing of my 600 and odd *Monasteries, Nunneries & Abbeis* for being held to be *Hives of drones*, as there is now at the pulling downe of my *Crosse*

Organs and Windowes, ; There was as much wondring when the *Pope* fell *here*, as now *that the Prelates* are like to fall; The World wondred as much when the *Masse* was disliked, as men wonder now the Liturgy should be distasted; And God grant that people do not take at last a surfet of that most divine Ordinance of *preaching*, for no violent thing lasts long; And though there should be no satiety in holy things, yet such is the depraved condition of man, he is naturally such a Changeling, that the over frequency and commonnesse of any thing, be it never so good, breeds in tract of time a kind of contempt in him, it breeds a fulnesse and nauseousnes in him.

The first Reformation of my Church began at *Court*, and so was the more feasable, and it was brought to passe without a Warre; The scene is now otherwise, it is far more sanguinary and fuller of Actors; never had a Tragedy *Acts* of more variety in so short a time; there was never such a confus'd *mysterious* civill War as this, there was never so many bodies of strength on Sea and Shore, never such choice Arms and Artillerie, never such a numerous Cavalrie on both sides, never so many Sieges, never a greater eagernes and confidence, there was never such an amphibolous quarrell as this, both parties declaring themselves for the King, and making use of his name in all their Remonstrances to justifie their actions, The affection, and understandings of people were never so confounded and puzled, not knowing where to acquiesce, by reason of such counter commands. One side calls the resisting of Royall commands *loyalty*, the other termes *loyalty*, the opposing of Parlementary Orders and Ordinances. Both parties would have peace, the one would have it with *Honor*, the other with *Truth*, (and God forbid but both should go together) but, *Interesaring or Ego*, in the mean time I, poore I am sure do suffer by both, the one taking away what the other leav's, If the one *polls* me, the other *shaves* me, and God grant they fall not a *flaying* of me at last. Insomuch that whosoever will be curious to read the future story of this intricate Warre (if it be possible to compile a story of it) he will find himselfe much stagger'd, and put to kind of a riddle before he understand it; for touching the intricacy of it, touching the strange nature, or rather the unnaturalnesse of it, it cannot be parallel'd by any precedent example: In *my* Chronicles I am sure no age can match it, as I will make it briefly appear, by comparing it with all the Warres that ever embroil'd me, which I finde to be of three sorts, either by the *invasion* of Forreners, the *Insurrection* of my Commons, or by the confederacy of my Peers and Princes of the Bloud.

I will not rake the ashes of Antiquity so far as to speak of that deluge of bloud I spilt before I would take the *Roman* Legions for my Garrison; I am loth to set down how the *Saxons* us'd me, and how the *Danes* us'd *Them*, nor how I had one whol brave race of people (the *Picts* I mean) quite extinguished in me, I will begin with the *Norman* expedition, and indeed to make recearches of matters before, is but to grope in the dark, but I have authentick Annales and Records for things since. The *Norman* came in with the slaughter of neer upon sixty eight thousand Combatants upon the place, a *Battaile* so memorable, that the very ground which sucked in the bloud retaines the *name* of it to this day. The *Dane* not long after strook in to recover his

pretended right, with the ſacking of my ſecond great City of *Yorke*, and the firing of her, with the ſlaughter of 3000 of my children in one afternoon, yet he was ſent away without his arrand. In the raigne of *Rufus* I was made of his colour, *red* with bloud both by the *Welſh* and the *Scot*, who loſt his King *Malcolme* in the Battaile of *Alnwick*. All my *eight Henries* were infeſted with ſome civill broyles, except my *fift Henry* the greateſt of them, who had work enough cut him out in *France*, and hee plied his work ſo well that he put that Crown upon his Sons head. All my *Edwards* alſo had ſome *home-bred* inſurrection or other; indeed two of my three *Richards* had alwayes quietneſſe at home, though the *firſt* did go the furtheſt off from me, and was longeſt abſent of any; And the *third*, though he came in by bloud, yet the ſhort time of his three yeares *Vſurperſhip* he was without any, and prov'd one of my beſt Law-givers, yet his life ended in bloud, for having come in like a *fox*, he dyed like a *ſelfe*. Touching my *ſecond Richard*, and *ſecond Edward*, there were never any of my Kings came to a more Tragique end, and the greateſt ſtains that black my ſtory are the violent deaths they ſuffered by the hands of their own (*Regicide*) Subjects. The *two Sifter Queens* that ſwayed my Scepter had alſo ſome domeſtique commotions; and now my *CHARLES* hath them to the height, inſomuch that of *thoſe five and twenty Monarques* who have worne *my diadems ſince the Norman entred*, there was only foure, *viz.* the forementioned *Henry*, and *Richards*, with King *IAMES* ſcaped free from all inteſtin broyles! Oh how it torments my Soule to remember how my *Barons* did teare my bowells! what an Ocean of bloud the two *Roſes* coſt me before they were conjoyned, for during the time that I came to be a Monſter with two heads (made ſo by their diviſion) I mean during the time that I had two Kings at once, *Edward the fourth, and Henry the ſixt* within me, in five years ſpace I had *twelve* Battails fought within my entrails, wherin I loſt neer upō fourſcore Princes of the royal ſtem, and parted with more of my ſpirits than there were ſpent in winning of *France*. The World knowes how free and prodigall I have bin of my bloud abroad in divers places, I watered the *Holy Land* with much of it; Againſt my Co-Iſlander the *Scot* I had above twenty pitch'd Battails, *tooke* many, and *kil'd* ſome of his Kings in the Field. the *Flower de lyces* coſt me dear before I brought them over upon my Sword; and the reduction of *Ireland* from time to time to civility, and to an exact rule of alleageance waſted my children in great numbers. I never grudg'd to venture my bloud this way, for I ever had glorious returns for it; and my Sons dyed in the bed of honour: but for them to glut themſelves with one anothers bloud; for them to lacerat and rip up (viper-like) the wombe that brought them forth, to teare the Paps that gave them ſuck, can there be a greater piacle againſt nature her ſelfe, can there be a more execrable and horrid thing? *If* a ſtranger had us'd mee thus it would not have griev'd me halfe ſo much; *It is better to be ſtung with a nettle, than prick'd by a Roſe*; *I* had rather ſuffer by an Enemy, than by my own naturall born off-ſpring. Thoſe former home-wag Wars, whereof there hapned above fourſcore (ſmal & great) ſince the *Norman* came in, were but as fires of Flax in compariſon of this horrid *combuſtion*, which make both my Church & State to ſuffer ſo much. One may finde thoſe Wars Epitomiz

in small *volumes*, but a whole library cannot contain this. They were but *Scratches* being compar'd to the deep *wounds* which *Prince*, *Peere*, and people have receiv'd by this; such wounds, that it seems no gentle Cataplasmes can cure them, they must be lanc'd and cauteriz'd, and the huge scars they will leave behinde them will, I feare, make me appear so deformed and ugly to all posterity, that I am halfe in despaire to recover my former beauty ever again. The deep stains these Wars will leave upon me, all the water of the *Severn*, *Trent* or *Thames* will hardly wash away.

The Sun yet hath not run twice his course through the Zodiac, since the two-edged sword of War hath rag'd & done many horrid executions within me, since that Hellish invention of powder hath thundred in every corner, since it hath darkned torn, & infected my well-tempered aire, since I have weltered in my own bloud, and bin made a kind of Cockpit, a Theater of death to my own children; And in so short a circumvolution of time, I may confidently affirm take battailes, re-encounters, skirmishes, with sieges both winter and summer, there never hapned so many in any Countrey; nor do I see any appearance, the more is my misery, of any period to be put to these Distractions, every day is spectator of some new Tragedy, and therefore those rumours that are hourely blaz'd abroad sound sometimes well on the one side, sometimes on the other, like a peale of bels in windy weather (though oftentimes in a whole *volley* of News you shall hardly finde one true *Report*) which makes me feare that the all-disposing Deity of Heaven continueth the successes of both parties in a kinde of equality, to prolong my miseries. *Ita serior, ut diu me sentiam mori*, I am wounded with that dexterity, that the sence and agonies of my sufferings are like to be extended to the uttermost length of time and possibility of nature.

But, O Passenger, if thou art desirous to know the cause of these fatall discomposures, of this *inextricable* War, truly I must deal plainly, I cannot resolve thee herein to any full satisfaction. Grievances there were I must confesse, and some incongruities in my Civill government (wherein some say the *Crosier*, some say the *Distaffe* was too busie) but I little thought, God wot, that those grievances required a redresse this way. Do'st thou ask me whither *Religion* was the cause? God forbid; That innocent and holy Matron had rather go clad in the snowie white robes of meeknesse and longanimity, than in the purple mantle of bloud, her practise hath been to overcome by a passive fortitude without reaction, and to triumph in the milk-white victory Chariot of innocency and patience; not to be hurried away with the fiery wheels of War; *Les larmes*, not *les armes* (as my next neighbour hath it) groanes not guns, sighs not swords, prayers not partisans were us'd to be her weapons unlesse in case of open and impendent danger, in case of invincible necessity, and visible actuall unavoydable extinguishment, and then the Arms she useth most is the *Target* to shroud her selfe under, and fence away the blow, she leaves all other weapons, to the *Church* to propagate and expand it selfe. This gentle grave Lady, though the *Rubricks* of her *Service* be in *red* characters, yet she is no lover of *Bloud*, she is an embracer of *Peace*, and the sole object of her Devotion is the God of Peace, in whose *Highest* name, in the name *Iehovah*, as the *Rabbins* observe, all the letters are *quiescent*.

That sacred Comforter, which inspires her Ambassadors, uses to ascend in form of a *Dove*, not in the likenesse of a devouring *vulture*, and he that brings him downe so, may be sayd to sin against the holy Ghost; To beat Religion into the braines with a Poleaxe, is to make a *stock* of the *Messias*, to offer him victims of humane bloud; Therefore I should [illegible] and much wrong *Religion* if I should cast this war upon her: yet me thinkes I hear this holy distrest Matron lament that shee was not also without her grievances; some of her chiefest Governors (for want of moderation) could not be content to walk upon the battlements of the Church, but they must put themselves upon stilts, and thence mount up to the Turrets of civil policy; many of her Preachers grew to be meer Parasites, some to the *Court*, some to the *Country*; some would have nothing in their mouth's but *Prærogative*, others nothing but *Priviledge*; some would give the *Crown* all, some nothing at all; some to feed zeal, would famish the understanding; others to feast the understanding, and tickle the outward eare (with essaies and flourishes of rhetorick) would quite starve the soul of her true food, &c.

But the principal thing I hear that Reverend Lady, (that Queen of souls, & turn key of heaven) make her mone of, is, that that *Seamlesse* garment of Unity and Love which our Saviour left her for a legacy, should be torn and rent into so many Scissures and Sects *by those that would make that coat which she wore in her infancy, to serve her in her ripe years*. I hear her cry out at the monstrous exorbitant liberty that almost every capricious Mechanique takes to himselfe to shape and form what Religion he list: for the world is come now to that passe, That the *Taylor* and *Shoomaker* may cut out what Religion they please; The *Vintner* and *Tapster* may *broach* what Religion they please; The *Druggest* and *Apothecary* may mingle her as they please; The *Haberdasher* may put her upon what *block* he pleases; The *Armourer* and *Cutler* may *furbish* her as they please; The *Dyer* may put what *colour*, the *Painter* may put what *face* upon her he please; The *Draper* and *Mercer* may *measure* her as they please; The *Weaver* may cast her upon what *loom* he please; The *Boatswain* and *Mariner* may bring her to what *dock* they please; The *Barber* may *trim* her as he please; The *Gardiner* may *lop* her as he please; the *Blackesmith* may *forge* what Religion he please, and so every *Mechanic* according to his profession and fancy may forme her as he please. Me thinks I hear that venerable Matron complaine further, how her *Pits* in some places are become meer *Beacons* to summon men to Arms; How in [illegible] of lights, her Churches up and down are full of Firebrands; How every capricious of the brain is term'd now tendernesse of Conscience, which well examined is [illegible] thing but some fond fancy, or fanatick frenzie rather of some shallow-braind *Scie*[illegible] For whereas others have bin us'd to run mad for excesse of *knowledge*, some of [illegible] children grow mad now a daies out of too much *ignorance*. It stands upon reco[illegible] my story, that when the *Norman* had taken firm footing within me, he did demo[illegible] many Churches and Chappels in *New-Forrest*, to make it fitter for his pleasure [illegible] venery, but amongst other judgements which fell upon this Sacriledge, one was [illegible] *tame* fowle grew *wilde*; I fear God Almighty is more angry with me now than [illegible] & that I am guilty of a worse profanes; for not my *Fowl*, but my *Folk* & peo[illegible]

rown halfe wild in many places, they would not worry one another ſo in that wolliſh belluine manner elſe, they would not precipitate themſelves elſe into ſuch a mixt mungrell War, a *War that paſſeth all underſtanding*; They would not cut their owne throats, hang, drown, and do themſelves away in ſuch a deſperate ſort, which is now grown ſo common, that ſelf-murther is ſcarce accounted any newes; which makes ſtrangers cry out, that I am all turn'd into a kind of Great *Bedlam*, that *Barbary* is come into the midſt of me; That my children are grown ſo ſavage, ſo fleſh'd in bloud, and become ſo inhumane and obdurate, that with the ſame tenderneſſe of ſence they can ſee a man fall, as ſee a horſe, or ſome other bruit Animall, they have ſo loſt all reverence to the image of their Creatour, which was us'd to be more valued in me, than amongſt any other Nation.

But I hope my King and great Councell will take a courſe to bring them to their old Engliſh temper againe, to cure me of this *vertigo*, and preſerve me from ruine; for ſuch is my deſperate caſe, that as there is more difficultie, ſo it would be a greater honour for them to prevent my deſtruction, and pull me out of this plunge, than to adde unto me a whole new kingdome; for true wiſdome hath alwayes gloried as much in conſervation, as in conqueſt.

The *Roman*, though his ambition of conquering had no horizon, yet he us'd to triumph more (as multitudes of examples might be produc'd) at the compoſing of an inteſtine war, than for any new acqueſt, or forren atchievement whatſoever; And though he was a great martiall man, and lov'd fighting as well as any other, yet his maxime was, *That no peace could be ſo bad, but it was preferrable to the beſt war*. It ſeemes the *Italian* his ſucceſſour retaines the ſame genius to this day, by the late peace, (notwithſtanding the many knots that were in the thing) which he concluded: For although abſolute Princes were intereſſed in the quarrell, and that they had all juſt pretenſes, and were heated and heightned in their deſignes, yet rather than they would dilacerate the entrailes of their owne mother (faire *Italy*) and expoſe her thereby to be ranſack'd by Tramontanes, they met half way, and complyed with one another in a gentle kind of freedome, though every one bore his ſhare in ſome inconvenience. Oh that my children would be mov'd by this ſo ſeaſonable example of the Italian, who amongſt other of his characters, is ſaid to be *wiſe, à priori*, before the blow is given. I deſire my gracious Soveraigne to think, that it was never held inglorious or derogatorie for a King to be guided and to ſteere his courſe by the compaſſe of his great Councell, and to make his underſtanding deſcend, and condeſcend to their advice; nor was it ever held diſhonourable for ſubjects to yeeld and bow to their King, (to be *Bowes*, not *Oakes*) and if any miſtake ſhould happen, to take it upon themſelves, rather than any ſhould reflect upon their Soveraigne. And if, in caſe of difference, he were willing to meet them halfe way, 'twere handſome they went three parts before to prevent him. Therefore I conjure them both, in the name of the great Deitie of Heaven (*who tranſvolves king domes, and tumbleth downe Kings in his indignation*) that they would think of ſome ſpeedie way to ſtop the iſſue of b'oud; for to deale plainly with them, I ſee far greater reaſon to *conclude* this war, than ever there was to [illegible]

Let them consider well they are but outward Church rites and ceremonies they fight for, as the rigidst sort of Reformers confesse, the Lutheran (the first Reformist) hath many more conformable to the Church of Rome, which hee hath continued above these 120 yeares, yet is he as far from *Rome* as the first day he left her, and as free from danger of relapse into Poperie as *Amsterdam* herselfe; and must I, unhappie I, be acerated and torne in peeces thus for shadowes and ceremonies? O let not posteritie find it upon record, that the unparallel'd Act of grace for the *continuance* of this, be more hurtfull to me, than the untimely *dissolution* of all Parlements pass'd. I know there is a clashing 'twixt Prerogative and Priviledge, but I must put them in mind of the misfortune that befell the flock of sheep and the Bell-weather, whereof the first fed in a common, the latter in an incloſure, and thinking to break into one anothers pasture (as *all creatures naturally desire change*) and being to passe over a narrow-narrow bridge which sever'd them, they met in the middle and justled one another so long, till both fell into the ditch. And now that I have begun, I will warne them by another fable of the *Spanish Mule*, who having by accident gone out of the great road, and carried her Rider thorow a by-path upon the top of a huge steepie rock, stopp'd upon a sudden, and being not able to turne and go backward, by reason of the narrownesse of the path, nor forward, in regard of a huge Rockie precipice, she gently put one foot behind the other, and recoyl'd in that manner untill she had found the great road againe.

I desire my high Councell to consider, that the royall Prerogative is like the Sea, which as Navigators observe, and the Civilians hold, what it loseth at one time or in one place, gets alwayes in some other; That Subjects banding against their King, are like the earthen pitchers in the Fable justling with the great brasse kettle. I desire my deare King to consider, that the priviledge of Parlement, the Lawes and liberties of the Subject, is the firmest support of his Crown, that his great Councell is the truest glasse wherein he may discerne his peoples love, and His own happinesse; It were wisdome that both did strike saile in so dangerous a storme, to avoyd shipwrack; I am loth to say, what consultations, what plots, and machinations are fomenting and forging abroad against me, by that time I have enfeebled and wasted my selfe, and lost the flower of my best children in these wofull broyles. Mee thinks *I* spie the *Iesuit* sitting in his cell and laughing in his sleeve at me, and crying out, The Devill part the Fray, for they do but execute my designes.

Oh, *I* feele a cold quame come over my heart, that *I* faint, *I* can speak no longer; yet *I* will straine my selfe to breath out this one invocation, which shall be my conclusion.

Sweet Peace, most benigne and amiable Goddesse, how comes it to passe that thou hast so abandon'd Earth, and taking thy flight to Heaven, as once Astræa *did, dost reject the sighs and neglect the Sacrifices of poore mortals? was that flaming Vsher of Gods vengeance which appear'd six and twentie yeares since in the Heavens, the Herald that fetch'd thee away? for ever since poore* Europe *hath been haras'd, and pitifully rent up and downe with restlesse Wars, and now I am become the last Scene. Gentle peace, thou which makest Heaven*

and Earth to triumph, which gladdest not only the heart of man, but makest the verie meadowes and fields, the forrests and woods, the hils and hooses to reioyce; Thou which goest alwayes accompanied on by plentie and pleasure, Thou which fillest the husbandmans barnes, the Graziers folds, the Tradesmans shop, the Vintners cellers, the Lawyers desk, the Merchant's Magazines, the Princes treasurie, how comes it to passe that thou hast now given up thy Throne to Bellona, *that all-destroying Fury? Behold how my plundred Yeoman wants Hands and Horse to plow up my fertile Soyle; the poore Labourer who us'd to mingle the morning dew with his anheled sweat, shakes at his work for feare of pressing or plundring; The Tradesman shuts up his shop, and keeps more Holy dayes than willingly he would; The Merchant walks to the* Exchange *only to learne newes, not to negotiate. Behold how my best sort of Children are weary of their lives, either for unlimited endlesse exactions, or remedilesse unthought-on imprisonments, and all by an arbitrarie confus'd power which the necessitie of this fatall war hath drawn upon them. Sweet Peace, thou which wast us'd to make Princes Courts to triumph with Tilt and Tournements, and other Gallantries, to make them receive lustre by forren Ambassadours; to make the Arts and Sciences flourish; to make Cities and Suburbs shine with goodly structures, to make the Country ring with the Huntsmans Horn, and the Shepherds Pipe, the High-wayes with Carriers bels; how comes it to passe that bloud-thirstie* Discord *now usurps thy place, and flings about her Snakes in everie corner, that the* ῥομφαῖα δίστομος, *the double-edg'd sword of civill war doth rage and cut on both sides in so horrid and inhumane a manner? Behold, my Prince his Court is now full of nothing but Buff Coats, Spanners and Musket Rests; both Townes and Country, and my High-wayes ecchow nothing but with the sound of Drums and Trumpets; Hearke how pitifully my* Lions *roare, how dejectedly my* Roses *and* Flower de luces *hang downe their heads, what dolefull straines my* Harp *gives.*

O consider my case most blusfull Queene, descend, descend againe in thy Ivorie Chariot? resume thy Throne, crowne thy Temples with thy wonted Laurell and Olive, bar up Ianus *gates, and make new Halcionian dayes to shine in this Hemesphere; dispell those Clouds which hover 'twixt my King and his highest Councell, chase away all jealousies and ombrages of mistrust, that my great Law-making Court be forc'd to turne no more to polemicall Committees, and to a Councell of war (unlesse it be for some forren Conquest,) but that they may come againe into the old Parlementarie Road,* To the path of their predecessours, to consult of meanes how to sweep away those Cobwebs that hang in the Courts of Iustice, and to make the Lawes run in their right Channell; to retrench excessive fees, and find remedies for the future, that the poore Client be not so peel'd by his Lawyer, and made to suffer by such monstrous delayes, that one may go from one Tropique to the other, & crosse the Equinoctiall twentie times, before his sure be ended; That they may think on a course to restraine Gold and Silver from travelling without license, with other staple commodities, and to punish those that transport *Hides* for *Calf-skins*; To advance native commodities and Manufactures, to improve and ballance Trade, and settle it so, that it may stand upon its owne Bottome, and not by any *accidentall wayes*, as of late yeares a glut of Trade was cast upon me by the wars 'twixt *France* and the House of *Austria*, and others.

That this Trade of mine (my chiefeſt ſinew) be not caſt into the hands of Aliens, who eat me out in many places in my own commodities; That it be prevented hereafter, that one Town be not permitted to ingroſſe and ingulph all (like the ſpleene, that by its ſwelling ſucks both bloud and moiſture from the reſt of the members) but that my Trade and wealth may by ſome wholſome policie be diffus'd up and down my Cities in a more equall diſtribution. That they may adviſe of a way to relieve the Orphan, who ſuffers more for his minority in mee, than any where elſe; That the poore *Inſolvent* Subject be not ſo buried alive, and made to rot in *Priſon*, notwithſtanding his apparant known diſability, whereas were he abroad, he might be uſefull to the Common-wealth ſome way or other, and come haply afterwards to an ability to pay. To regulate the buſineſſe of drain'd lands, which well manag'd, would tend very much both to enlarge and enrich my Quarters. To ſecure the Dominion of my Seas, the faireſt Flower of my Crown, which is now almoſt quite loſt. To preſerve my Woods, whereof, if this courſe hold, their will hardly be found in ſome places enough to make a Tooth-pick. To ſettle the Revenues, and ſupply the wants of my Crown; for the wants of the *Crown* & the Grievances of the Subject have bin always uſed to go hand in hand in my Parlements. And now, that my neighbour Princes (ſpecially they of *France* and *Spain*) have of late years enhanc'd the revenue Royall, at leaſt to the third part more than it was, it were a diſparagement to me, that *my* King ſhould not bear up in equal proportion, and point of Greatneſſe this way, conſidering that he hath more of the Royall Stem to maintain, than any of his Progenitors ever had. Laſtly, that they may ſettle a way to regulate all exorbitant fancies of noveliſts, in the exerciſe of holy Religion: It being an undeniable maxime, that where there is no obedience, ſubordination, and reſtrictive Lawes to curb the changeable humours and extravagancies of mens braines there can be no Peace or Piety: If the fire be not kept within the tunnell of the Chimney, and that ſome be appointed to ſweep down the Soot with a high hand (which may be done otherwiſe than by ſhooting up of Muskets) the whole Houſe will be in danger of burning.

Oh me, I feel the pangs of death aſſail mee, let ſome good body go toll the bell; And as one of my Kings, (*Wil. Rufus*) the night before he was ſlain in *New-forreſt*, for the expiation of his fathers Sacriledge, did dreame that a cold winde did paſſe through his bowels, ſo me thinks, I feele a bleake cold *Northern* blaſt blowing upon me, which I feer will make an end of me: It is a miracle if I ſcape, 'tis only the high hand of Providence can preſerve me. If I and my *Monarchy* miſcarry, I deſire that my Epitaph may be written (in regard I know him to have bin a long time not only ſenſible, but a ſharer with me in point of ſuffering) by my dearly beloved Child

Iames Howell.

To

To the diſcerning Reader.

HE that with a well-weigh'd judgement obſerveth the paſ
ſions of this laſt Diſcourſe, muſt needs conclude, that th
Author (beſides his own hard condition of two years cloſe impri
ſonment) hath a deep ſence of the common calamities of this hi
Country in generall, which makes him break out into ſuch patheti
expreſſions. And becauſe he might do it with more freedom, an
leſſe preſumption, he makes England her ſelfe to breath out hi
diſordered paſſions. We know a Mother hath a prerogative by a
uncontrollable Edict of nature to ſpeak home unto her children, &
ſometimes in a chiding round way (though with tears in her eyes)
to give them advice: The ſame doth England in this diſcourſe
but with all the tenderneſſe and indifferency that may be to both
parties now in Arms. Therefore the Author humbly hopes tha
no exception, much leſſe any offence, will be taken at Her com-
plaints, or Counſell.

Mollia commotum frangunt documenta furorem ——— Prov.

FINIS.

J. H.

8200